

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 2669

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, EGEN, DA

SUBJ: SPLIT IN MOGENS GLISTRUP'S PARTY

REF: COPENHAGEN 2661

SUMMARY: THREE OF THE FOUR MEMBERS OF MOGENS GLISTRUP'S
PROGRESSPARTY WHO BROKE RANKS TO SAVE PRIMIN HARTLING'S
LIBERAL GOVERNMENT SEPTEMBER 20 HAVE DECIDED TO RESIGN
FROM THE PARTY. SINCE THE THREE WILL REMAIN IN PARLIAMENT,
EITHER AS INDEPENDENT MEMBERS OR AS MEMBERS OF ONE OF THE

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NON-SOCIALIST PARTIES, THEIR SUPPORT IS EXPECTED TO
GIVE HARTLING'S SIX-PARTY CENTER-RIGHT ALLIANCE A

ONE-VOTE MAJORITY IN PARLIAMENT. END SUMMARY.

1. AT PROGRESS PARTY MEETING SEPTEMBER 21-22, THE FATE OF THE FOUR MEMBERS WHO REFUSED TO FOLLOW PARTY DISCIPLINE AND VOTED TO SAVE THE LIBERAL PARTY GOVERNMENT DURING SEPTEMBER 20 CRISIS WAS MAJOR TOPIC OF CONCERN. GLISTRUP AND PARTY'S EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ATTEMPTED TO CIRCUMVENT THE ISSUE BY DENYING ROSTRUM TO ANY OF THE FOUR DISSIDENTS AND ANNOUNCING THAT THE MATTER WOULD BE DECIDED AT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING LATER THIS WEEK. IN RESPONSE TO THIS ATTEMPT TO MUZZLE THEM, THREE OF THE FOUR, VETERIANARIAN JENS ERIK KLAUSEN, SHOP-KEEPER NILS VESTERGAARD ERIKSEN AND MRS. INGEBORG GJERDING, ANNOUNCED THEIR DECISION TO RESIGN FROM THE PARTY.

2. PRESUMABLY THE THREE DEFECTORS WILL IN TIME JOIN ANOTHER PARTY. ONE OF THEM HAS ADMITTED THAT OFFERS FROM OTHER PARTIES HAD BEEN RECEIVED, ALTHOUGH HE CLAIMED THAT THE OFFERS WERE FIRST MADE AFTER THEIR SEPTEMBER 20 DEFECTION.

3. COMMUNIST PARTY CHAIRMAN KNUD JESPERSEN, HOWEVER, CLAIMED IN A TELEVISED INTERVIEW FOLLOWING THE CRISIS ON SEPTEMBER 20 THAT "ATTEMPTS TO BUY" THE VARIOUS PROGRESS PARTY MEMBERS HAD BEEN MADE BEFORE SEPT. 20. THIS CHARGE HAS BEEN SUPPORTED BY ANOTHER PROGRESS PARTY MEMBER WHO TOLD THE PARTY MEETING THAT LIBERAL MP ARNE CHRISTIANSEN HAD OFFERED POSITIONS ON THE FINANCE COMMITTEE AND THE RADIO COUNCIL TO CERTAIN UNNAMED PROGRESSIVES IF THEY WOULD INDUCE SEVEN OR EIGHT MEMBERS OF THE PARTY TO BREAK RANKS AND SUPPORT THE GOVERNMENT.

4. COMMENT: WHETHER THE THREE DEFECTOR MPS JOIN ANOTHER PARTY OR REMAIN AS INDEPENDENTS, IT CAN BE PRESUMED THAT THEY WILL SUPPORT THE BASIC POLITICAL LINE OF THE SIX-PARTY ALLIANCE WHICH PRIMIN HARTLING SEEMS TO HAVE FORGED DURING THE PAST WEEK. THE SWITCH OF THESE THREE VOTES, FROM OPPOSITION TO SUPPORT OF THE GOVERNMENT, MAY
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RADICALLY ALTER THE PRESENT POWER STRUCTURE IN PARLIAMENT. ADDED TO THE VOTE OF THE GREENLAND MP, WHO NORMALLY SUPPORTS THE LIBERAL PARTY, THE THREE NEW VOTES GIVE THE GOVERNMENT'S SIX-PARTY ALLIANCE 89 VOTES - A ONE-VOTE MAJORITY OF THE VOTING MEMBERSHIP IN PARLIAMENT* (ONE GREENLAND MP AND ONE FAEROESE MP NEVER VOTE IN DOMESTIC DANISH MATTERS.) IF THIS, IN FACT, PROVES TO BE A RESULT OF THE MOST RECENT CRISIS, THAT EVENT MAY HAVE PROFOUND IMPLICATIONS FOR THE FUTURE POLITICAL PROSPECTS OF THE HARTLING GOVERNMENT.

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